

## Message Text

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20

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /082 W  
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O P 181017Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 686

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OLSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T USNATO 1483

E.O. 11652C GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK SECURITY

REF: A) USNATO 1393 DTG 131230Z MAR 75; B) USNATO 1363 DTG  
121210Z MAR 75; C) STATE 51679; D) USNATO 5200 DTG 242030Z SEP 74

1. MISSION HAS RECOMMENDED US DEMARCHE WITH THE ITALIANS, BOTH  
HERE AND IN ROME, IN FAVOR OF THE BELGIAN LANGUAGE ON GEOGRAPHIC  
AREAS, CONTAINED IN THE SPEC DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK  
SECURITY. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE DEMARCHE  
WHICH, UPON WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION, COULD BE MADE ORALLY AND  
GIVEN IN WRITING TO THE ITALIANS. SUCH AN APPROACH IN FAVOR OF  
SECRET

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PRESENT US POSITION WOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH ANY LATER  
REVISION OF THAT POSITION DECIDED BY WASHINGTON REVIEW.  
SPC CONSIDERATION OF FLANK SECURITY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY,  
MARCH 20.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION OF A DEMARCHE WITH THE ITALIANS HERE AND IN ROME ALONG THE LINES OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

A. THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF NATO ON MARCH 20 WILL RESUME ITS WORK ON GUIDANCE TO THE ALLIED AD HOC GROUP IN VIENNA ON FLANK SECURITY.

B. THE ONLY REMAINING SUBSTANTIVE POINT AT ISSUE IN THE GUIDANCE CONCERNS HOW THE ALLIES WILL DESCRIBE TO THE EAST THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS WHERE US AND SOVIET FORCES WITHDRAWN IN PHASE I WOULD NOT REDEPLOY. THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION IN THE GUIDANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"FORCES WITHDRAWN ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE REDEPLOYED

(IN GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS)

(INTO THE AREAS CONTIGUOUS TOT THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND TO THE TERRITORIES OF PARTICIPANTS HAVING A SPECIAL STATUS) WHERE THEIR ADDED PRESENCE WOULD EITHER INFRINGE UPON THE PRINCIPLE THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE SHOULD NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIAL STATUS OR CIRCUMVENT THE OBJECTIVE PURSUED IN THIS AGREEMENT OF ENHANCING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE."

C. THIS SENTENCE IS PART OF THE BELGIAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED LAST FALL. THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE IS THE ORIGINAL BELGIAN LANGUAGE ON GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS. THE SECOND BRACKETED PHRASE IS THE ITALIAN AMENDMENT, WHICH SEEKS TO DEFINE THOSE REGIONS MORE PRECISELY.

SECRET

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D. THE US CONSIDERS BOTH PHRASES TO BE SERIOUS, WELL-CONSIDERED CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALLIED WORK ON GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP ON FLANK SECURITY. HOWEVER, THE US CONSIDERS THAT THE BELGIAN LANGUAGE HAS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE IN AVOIDING ANY IMPLICATION THAT THERE ARE EXACT, DEFINABLE GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS TO AREAS WHERE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES WOULD DIMINISH SECURITY. THE US IS CONCERNED THAT THE ITALIAN AMENDMENT WOULD BROADEN THE GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF THE NEGOTIATION, AND RESTRICT ALLIED FLEXIBILITY, SINCE IT COULD RESULT IN LIMITING THE MOVEMENT OF US FORCES TO THE FLANK COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THE ITALIAN AMENDMENT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE OTHER SIDE. THE US, FOR THESE REASONS, SUPPORTS THE ORIGINAL BELGIAN LANGUAGE.

E. THE ITALIAN AMENDMENT, IN RESTRICTING THE REDEPLOYMENT OF  
WITHDRAWN SOVIET FORCES TO AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO THE REDUCTIONS  
AREA, WOULD APPLY NOT ONLY TO THE FLANKS, BUT ALSO TO HUNGARY.  
THE US AGREES WITH ITALY THAT THE ALLIES MUST SEEK TO PREVENT  
SOVIET FORCE INCREASES IN HUNGARY, IN CIRCUMVENTION OF AN MBFR  
AGREEMENT, BY MEANS WHICH DO NOT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON ITALY.  
THE US WISHES TO ASSURE ITALY OF ITS INTENTION TO SUPPORT  
APPROPRIATE NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE AT A LATER DATE AFTER THE  
OUTLINE OF A REDUCTION AGREEMENT HAS TAKEN SHAPE IN THE  
NEGOTIATION.

F. THE US HOPES THAT ITALY CAN SUPPORT THE BELGIAN FORMULATION,  
IN THE INTEREST OF EARLY COMPLETION OF SPC AND NAC WORK ON  
GUIDANCE ON FLANK SECURITY, TO ENABLE THE AD HOC GROUP TO MAKE  
CLEAR TO THE OTHER SIDE THAT MBFR MUST NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY  
OF THE FLANK COUNTRIES." END TEXT.  
BRUCE

SECRET

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**TAGS:** PARM, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO BONN  
LONDON  
ANKARA  
ATHENS

COPENHAGEN  
OLSLO  
ROME  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR  
MBFR VIENNA

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